

APPENDIX B. CONTINUED

Isle Royale National Park (ISRO)

Establishment: Authorized on March 3, 1931.

Designations: 99% of land area and inland waters are designated as Wilderness; designated a U.S. Biosphere Reserve under the United Nations' Man and the Biosphere Program; designated a Class I airshed.

Purpose and significance statements important to ecological monitoring:

- Preserve and protect the park's wilderness character.
- Preserve and protect the parks' natural resources and ecological processes.
- Provide opportunities for scientific study of ecosystem components.
- Known for its world renowned long-term wolf/moose predator/prey study
- Park waters contain the most productive native fishery and genetically diverse lake trout populations in Lake Superior.
- The park has several arctic-alpine and western disjunct species of plants.

General description: Isle Royale is a remote island archipelago in northwestern Lake Superior. It consists of one large island that is 45 miles long and nine miles wide surrounded by about 400 small islands. The park protects 571,790 acres of area extending up to 4.5 miles into Lake Superior from the outer islands. There are many inland lakes, ponds, and streams. The island is densely forested with northern boreal spruce-fir forest near the cool, moist shoreline of Lake Superior, and northern hardwoods in the warmer, drier interior.

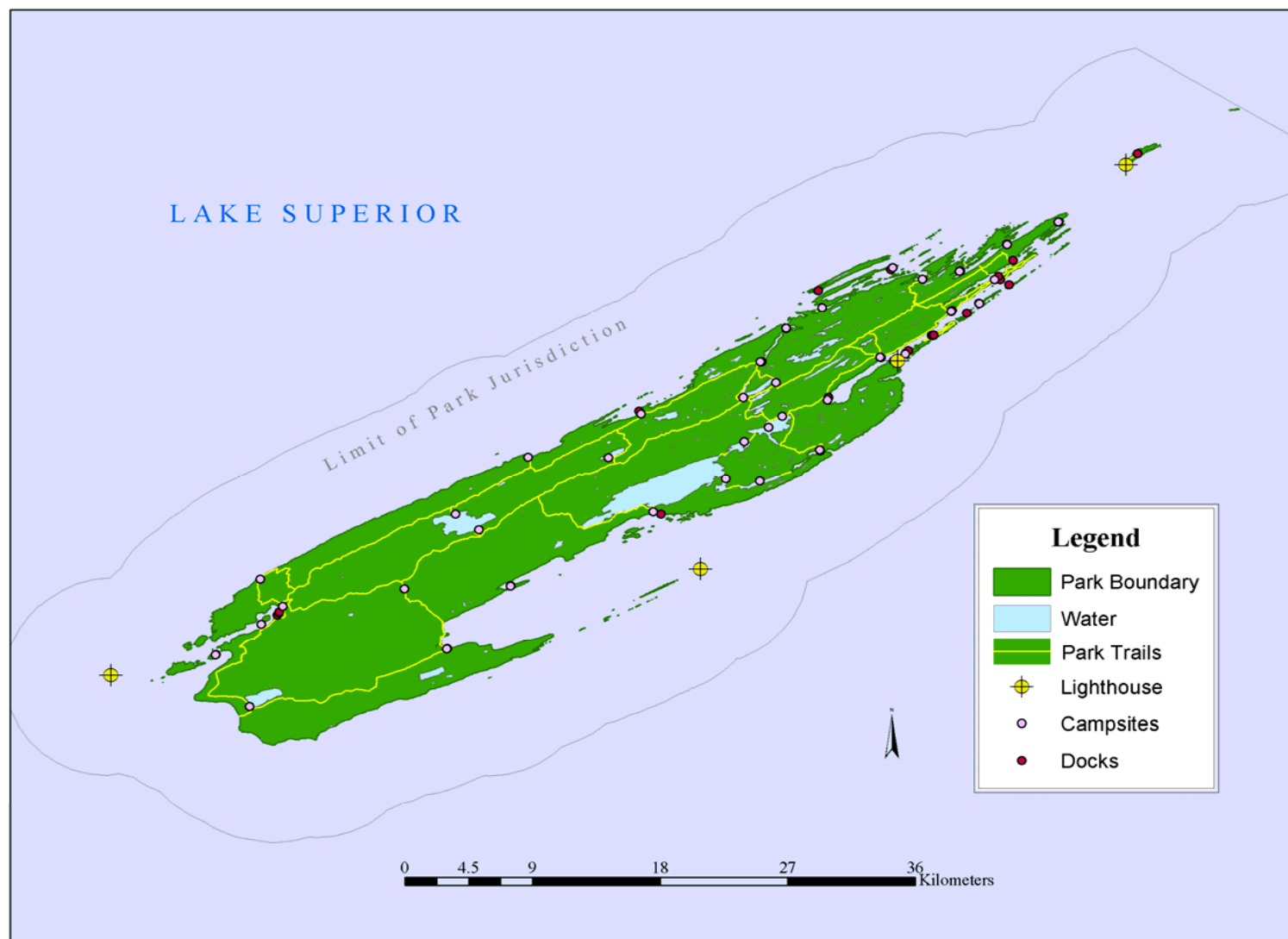
Visitation: About 17,000 visitors reach the island annually. Visitation occurs only in the summer months when most visitors must access the park via ferries from Houghton or Copper Harbor, MI, or from Grand Portage, MN.

Critical resources: Wolves and moose are perhaps the most famous park resources, but other critical resources in the park include the only naturally-reproducing coaster brook trout population in the United States; the most genetically diverse lake trout population in Lake Superior; several arctic/alpine disjunct plant species, as well as over 80 species of state listed rare plant species; the largest remaining Common Loon (state-listed as threatened) population in Michigan; and increasing nesting populations of bald eagles and osprey.

Primary threats: Airborne pollutants, waters with contaminants such as mercury and PCBs, exotic plants and animals (both aquatic and terrestrial), diseases spread from domestic animals.

Important management documents: General Management Plan completed in 1998. Resource Management Plan completed 1999.

For important park monitoring reports see Supplemental Document #3



Map of Isle Royale National Park and surrounding waters.